

**The Iris Network, by Jeremiah D. Newbury, Chairman of Advisory Board of Trustees (Maine):  
Request for denial of petitions for reconsideration**

**THE IRIS NETWORK -- FOCUSING ON MAINE'S BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED SINCE 1905**

October 31, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

NOV - 7 2000

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Re: Document No. 99-339

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter is written in Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported Order on video description. I am a blind practicing lawyer, and in behalf of myself and in behalf of The Iris Network I want to express our appreciation for your vote requiring the television networks to begin providing the essential service of video description for television programming. The Iris Network, formally called the Maine Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, focuses on serving the blind and visually impaired of the State of Maine.

Television is a major source of information and entertainment. It is important. It is essential for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means for understanding what is going on.

I and many of our constituents at The Iris Network are looking forward to April, 2002, when the audio descriptions will be available.

As I am sure the record in your proceedings shows, as our population ages so does visual impairment. The largest growing segment of our population losing their vision or suffering vision loss are over 80 years of age. Thus, providing audio services on the television networks becomes more and more essential to our population at large, and especially to elderly people who perhaps must rely on television more than their younger friends who are more able to get out and around.

I understand that the Petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling on July 21, 2000. Accordingly we respectfully request that the Petition for Reconsideration be denied.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah D. Newbury  
Chairman of Advisory Board of Trustees  
The Iris Network

cc: Steven Obremski  
President, The Iris Network

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List ABCDE

**Ms. Ellen Healey, parent: Support for Video Description**

**From:** ELLEN HEALEY <JMHEIH@webtv.net>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 6:03 PM  
**Subject:** Opposition

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**NOV - 7 2000**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

**Re: In Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported  
Order on Video Description**

**Docket Number:** 99-339

Following is a copy of a letter sent to Magalie Salas, Secretary, The  
Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC  
20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter is written to thank you for your vote requiring the networks  
to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of  
television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers by April  
2002.

Inasmuch as I am a parent of an adult visually impaired son, I am well  
aware of how important and exciting it would be for him to have an  
alternate means for knowing what is happening on television. My son has  
enjoyed video description in the past and would greatly relish being  
able to "watch" television shows by utilizing the video description to  
assist him in understanding the visual aspects of the programming.

I sincerely believe that television video description is long overdue  
and am anxiously awaiting its arriving in April 2002. I cannot fathom  
why anyone would ever wish to appeal this ruling and do not believe that  
the petitioners have provided any new information to support their  
position.

On behalf of all blind and visually impaired persons and their friends  
and families, I commend you for striving to make television more  
enjoyable by supporting television video description.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen Healey

**CC:** <info@acb.org>

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**Halifax Council of the Blind, Doug Hall, President: Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration**

**From:** "Doug E. Hall" <fl\_halls@juno.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 11:45 PM  
**Subject:** Docket #99-339, in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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**NOV 7 2000**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Ms. Salas,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the petitioner's request for reconsideration of the FCC ruling on video description. I feel that movie producers, television stations and cable providers should not be given the opportunity to dodge their responsibility to provide adequate accessible information to visually impaired customers. It is my feeling that the petitioners are trying to deny full enjoyment and information to an important segment of the public by trying to delay or eliminate their responsibility.

Blind and visually impaired people want and expect equal access to the programming and information that is readily available to sighted viewers.

Whether we want to understand and enjoy television shows or movies or want to know what the emergency warnings on television mean, it is only correct that the industry make this available. It seems that the purpose of the "Americans With Disabilities Act" (ADA) is to give people with disabilities equal access to programs and facilities that are readily available to non-disabled. If that is the case, why would the petitioner's request even be considered?

Thank you for your efforts.

Doug Hall, President  
Halifax Council of the Blind

**CC:** <info@acb.org>

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**Carl Grenier (Massachusetts): Opposition to Petitions for Reconsideration**

**From:** "Carl Grenier" <cgrenier1@mediaone.net>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 1, 2000 7:40 AM

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

I wish to voice my opinion "IN OPPOSITION TO  
PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO  
DESCRIPTION".

Docket No. 99-339. The same arguments were used to try to block closed captioning and the need for wheel chair ramps which were successfully made everyday facts of life which benefit many disabled persons yet when first brought up were also too expensive or difficult to do for the business community. It has been a very hard and long battle to obtain the decision for video description so to face loosing it now would be a terrible blow. Please ask that this petition for reconsideration be dropped.  
Thankyou, Carl F. Grenier

Carl Grenier fax (978)  
970-0499, URL <http://www.smokinfairly.com>

1 River Place Tower C303, Lowell, MA 01852, USA, Phone and FAX: (978)  
970-0499, [mailto: Carl@Grenier.net](mailto:Carl@Grenier.net) URL <http://www.smokinfairly.com>

CC: <[info@acb.org](mailto:info@acb.org)>

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**Dr. Resa Fremed (New York): Against Reconsideration of Rule**

**From:** <RESAFREMED@aol.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 11:11 PM  
**Subject:** Docket #99-339

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Resa Fremed Ed.D.  
4 Bouton St.  
South Salem, NY 10590

The Federal Communications Commission  
Magalie Salas, Secretary  
445 12th ST. SW  
Washington, DC

November 1, 2000

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Sirs:

We applaud your ruling requiring the television networks to video describe their programs. It would be so wonderful for our visually impaired friends to be able to watch television with their friends and family and understand the action that is taking place.

We are appalled that petitioners have asked the commission to reconsider its ruling, especially since they have not put forth any new information that was not known at the time the Federal Communications Commission made its decision.

For all the above reasons, we are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

Sincerely,

Resa Fremed, Ed.D.

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**Mr. John W. Fountain, on behalf on blind daughter, Indiana: Opposition to Petitions for Reconsideration**

**From:** John Fountain <jfountai@kiva.net>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 11:53 AM  
**Subject:** Video Description

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The following is a copy of a letter sent to the FCC:

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

October 31, 2000

From:  
John W. Fountain  
2066 N Co Rd 50E  
Paoli, IN 47454

To:  
Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Subject: OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE  
REPORTED  
ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION**

Docket No. 99-339

I appreciate the FCCs courageous vote requiring networks to begin providing essential information services to people who are blind and visually impaired. My daughter, who is totally blind, has had the opportunity to view certain videos that have been transcribed. This has opened a whole new concept for her to enjoy movies on the same basis as the rest of her family. I have told her that she will have the same capabilities afforded to her on television in the near future. For those who would benefit greatly, I encourage the FCC to remain steadfast with the decision that has been made.

I might also point out that the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time of the FCC ruling.

Sincerely,  
John W. Fountain

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99-339  
RECEIVED**Florida Council of Citizens With Low Vision: Against Petitions** NOV - 7 2000

On behalf of the Florida Council of Citizens with Low Vision, a 700 plus member organization of persons who are visually impaired, it is a necessity for those of us who cannot see a screen fully to have an alternate means, such as video description so we can have equal access to what is happening on television.

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Watching descriptive video movies, we look forward to the time when we can turn our TV on and enjoy the same television show the remainder of the population watches and know what is occurring on screen. We anxiously look forward to this happening in April 2002.

Video description gives the blind and low vision populations equal access to what the "sighted world sees".  
The FCC reached its decision and issued a ruling. Far be it now, for you to consider any petition against this.

We hope this helps you reconsider any action to delay the start of this necessary part of our lives.

Respectfully,  
Rosanna M. Lippen, President, Florida Council of Citizens with Low Vision

Email lippen@gate.net  
10/30/00

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**Dory Fisher, California: Opposition to Petitions For Reconsideration**

**From:** doryfisher@mediaone.net > 10/20/00 08:55AM > > >  
**To:** access@fcc.gov  
**Subject:** Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dory Fisher  
14920 Touchwood Ave.  
Bellflower, CA 90706-2854  
(562) 866-2131

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**NOV - 7 2000,**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

October 20, 2000

Magalie Salas  
Secretary, FCC  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: OPPOSITION TO RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO  
DESCRIPTION DOCKET NO. 99-339,

First of all, I would like to thank the FCC for its original ruling requiring broadcasters to provide descriptive video for several program hours. Without such description, as a blind person, I find it difficult to impossible to follow the action when listening to programs.

I strongly oppose the petitioners request for the FCC to reconsider its original ruling. The petitioners have not provided any information that was not available at the time of the ruling.

Broadcasters have provided closed caption viewing for many years as well as second language broadcasts through the secondary audio program. It is long past the time a similar service, descriptive video, should be available to the visually impaired.

Sincerely,

Doris Fisher

c: Copy sent via e-mail to access@fcc.gov

doryfisher@mediaone.net

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**Carol Ewing (Nevada): Opposition to Petitions for Reconsideration of Rule**

**From:** "Carol Ewing" <cewing@isat.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 10:00 PM  
**Subject:** FCC docket No 99-339

2127 Hallston Street  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89134  
November 1, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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*Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary*

RE: Docket No. 99-339

The following comments are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

I thank you for the foresight you demonstrated with the July 21st ruling to provide video description for television programming in the future. I look forward to the time when television is as important to me as it was from 1948 to 1991, when I was sighted and it provided not only entertainment but education. The description via the ear rather than the eye will allow me to know what is happening. Your decision for description will provide continued education to not only the blind population but also to those folks who are not sure what is going on nor what is intended for the viewer to glean from the presentation.

May I suggest you take the time to view a movie or program twice and under a controlled environment. For each viewing close or cover the eyes. Let the first presentation be a regular "sighted folks" version and the second presentation be a "video description" version. Once you have experienced this, I think you will realize your decision to provide description is a great and wonderful service allowing continued education to a degree one cannot imagine nor measure. The movie "Shindler's List" was video described by its producer as a service to the community who has thanked Stephen Spielberg more than once. My sighted friends, who are educated, viewed the movie a few weeks before I shared the video described one and they were in awe of the understanding the description gave them. My video described "The Hunt for Red October" movie has also been shared with many sighted folk. One last experience: I shared "Mary Poppins" with a totally blind 8-year-old boy, after which he asked, "Ms. Ewing, what is a plaid coat?"

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I am sure you realize the efforts from the petitioners have provided no new knowledge, thought or information to you than when your decision in favor of video description was reached. I encourage you to hold fast to your decision in that the enhancement of communication will reinforce the Mission Statement and Purpose of the FCC. The gift to have a level of awareness raised is an exciting gift, one most appreciated, one you are in the process of providing. And I

Thank You,

Carol Ann Ewing

CC: <info@acb.org>

**Mr. And Mrs. Parker and Linda Chase: Objection to Reconsideration of Rule & Support for July 21<sup>st</sup> Rule**

**From:** "ParkLin" <parklin@cyclemasterusa.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 1, 2000 8:34 AM  
**Subject:** VIDEO DESCRIPTION

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FCC DOCKET # 99-339

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

YOU MADE THE RIGHT DECISION ON JULY 21<sup>st</sup>. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW ANY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP TO INFLUENCE A CHANGE IN THAT RULING.

THE TECHNOLOGY THAT ENABLES PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL CHALLENGES TO LEARN FROM AND ENJOY THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS EVERYONE ELSE, SHOULD ALWAYS BE MADE AVAILABLE. INCLUDING: "VIDEO DESCRIPTION".

SINCERELY,  
PARKER AND LINDA JOY CHASE

CC: <info@afb.org>

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**California Council of the Blind: Support for Video Description Order**

**From:** California Council of the Blind <ccotb@earthlink.net>  
**To:** FCC Disability Office <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 6:01 PM  
**Subject:** Video Description Response letter to FCC Oct 31, 2000

October 31, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

99-339  
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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Secretary Salas:

The California Council of the Blind (CCB) was founded in 1934 and since that time has advocated on behalf of the blind and visually impaired men and women of California and the United States. We are the California affiliate of the American Council of the Blind (ACB). Our Council is the largest membership organization of its kind in the country.

On behalf of our members I am writing to urge you to uphold the ruling made on July 21, 2000 with regard to the provision of video description by April 2002. Many of us enjoy news, sports and movies and we have been very excited to know that, at long last, some of these will be described for us, making them much more enjoyable. We do not understand the objection of some to video description. Those who are not interested simply need not turn their VCR. It is regrettable that a few people, who are perhaps not as well informed, want to deny the opportunity for video description from those of us that desire it.

Your support in upholding the ruling voted on July 21st will be very much appreciated by our membership and myself.

Sincerely,

Catherine P. Skivers  
President

**CC:** ACB National Office <info@acb.org>

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**Carol A. Ahlvers, Ph.D (Kansas): In Opposition to the Petitions for Reconsideration**

**From:** Carol Ahlvers <Carol@kwu.edu>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 12:22 PM  
**Subject:** Please Save the Video Description Service

Carol A. Ahlvers, Ph.D.  
1165 Columbine Circle  
Salina, Kansas 67401

October 30, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, KC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

We are writing to you today to ask you to continue your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing essential information to people who are legally blind and visually impaired.

My mother is 79 years old and has been legally blind for two decades. Truly, she appreciates watching and understanding television. The video descriptions make all the difference in the world to her enjoying the entertainment. She can enjoy programs with her husband, children, and grandchildren.

Please continue your defense and support of the video description for citizens needing help because of their visual disabilities. I certainly am In opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

The video description service is valuable and there is no new evidence or information to support a change in the FCC decision.

I thank you for your consideration. And, I hope my mother enjoys the video description service for many years to come. Yes, we do have family and friends who need this assistance too.

Sincerely yours,

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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Carol A. Ahlvers, Ph.D.  
785-827-6899

**Alabama Council of the Blind: Support for Video Descrip R&O & Opposition to Reconsideration**

ALABAMA COUNCIL  
OF THE BLIND  
P. O. BOX 1213  
TALLADEGA, AL. 35160  
OCTOBER 31, 2000

NOV - 7 2000

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

MAGALIE SALAS, SECRETARY  
THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
455 12TH STREET SW  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20554  
Docket NO. 99-339

Dear Ms. Salas,

On behalf of the Alabama Council of the Blind, I want to express our appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote on July 21st requiring the television networks to begin providing essential information in an audio format to people who are blind and visually impaired. It is extremely important for those of us who cannot see the television screen to have an alternative means for knowing what action is taking place on the screen. Descriptive video will definitely meet this need.

Many of our members continue to enjoy the audio description of programs on PBS, and we look forward to April of 2002 when we can enjoy the same description on all of the television networks. Therefore, you can see why our organization is opposed to any reconsideration of the July 21st order.

Sincerely yours,  
Van Fulghum, President

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Diane Ayers (North Carolina): Support for Video Description Rule & Opposition to Petitions**

**From:** "Diane Ayers" <solitude@rjia.net>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 8:06 PM  
**Subject:** Submitting comments

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Re: Submitting Comments

"IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION DOCKET NO. 99-339"

It is truly appreciated by the blind and visually impaired the time, work and effort put forth by the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired like myself.

I can't stress enough the importance of having an alternate means of knowing what's happening on TV. I look forward to the day that I can turn on my TV and enjoy shows with my family without constantly interrupting them to find out what is going on, in turn, causing them to miss the show because they are giving me a description.

The value of video description is beyond compare to the blind and visually impaired and their families. It allows us the freedom to know we don't have to ask someone to watch TV with us to know what is going on.

The petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling.

This FCC ruling is a vital step in having television that is accessible for blind and visually impaired citizens.

I also know my family unit, which consists of 4 of us are in support of access for video description.

Thank You,  
Diane Ayers  
P.O. Box 1965  
Mt. Airy, NC 27030

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

October 30, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

RE: Docket No. 99-339

In opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported  
Order on video description.

I am writing this letter to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

As the director of an agency for the blind and visually impaired I hear daily how someone cannot see the television screen. It is so important for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means (i.e., video description) for knowing what's happening on the television. I am looking forward to turning on my TV set in April 2002, to enjoy television shows with my family and friends and to see the video description available for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Video description is so valuable for people and the petitioners have not provided any new information, which was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. This is a crucial component of any petition to reconsider.

Sincerely,

Rosalyn Becovsky  
Executive Director

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**Ms. Norma Boge (Iowa): Opposition to Petition for Reconsideration by NFB and Others**

**From:** "Norma A. Boge" <naboge@earthlink.net>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 3:06 PM  
**Subject:** Video Description

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

October 20, 2000

Secretary Magalie Salas  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339

Dear Secretary Salas:

I wish to submit the following COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO  
PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO  
DESCRIPTION

As a person who is blind, I found the ruling of the FCC on this issue to be very appropriate and fair. I feel it is a fundamental right for persons who are blind and visually impaired to be able to receive vital information and entertainment from television through the use of descriptive video. That is why I am very disturbed at the efforts of some in petitioning the FCC to reconsider their initial ruling. As I understand it, these parties are not presenting any evidence or testimony which was not available to them at the time the FCC reached its decision and promulgated the rule. Therefore, I think that it would be unwise for the FCC to reconsider its decision.

I also understand that one of the petitioners is the National Federation of the Blind (NFB). This organization claims to represent the blind as a whole, but this is totally false. They do not represent the views and opinions of all blind Americans. Please keep this in mind when the NFB presents itself to the FCC as being the organization which represents the blind.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. I do hope that the FCC will stand firm regarding its initial decision and not re-open the matter.

Sincerely,  
Norma A. Boge

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939 44th Place  
Des Moines, IA 50311

Barbara Briller (Pennsylvania): Opposition to Petitions

NOV - 7 2000

**From:** "Barbara Briller" <bbriller@home.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 1, 2000 6:56 AM  
**Subject:** Docket No. 99-339 == in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

524 East Drive  
Sewickley, Pennsylvania 15143

Tele: 413-741-3356  
Email: bbriller@home.com

October 31, 2000

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

To: Federal Communications Commissioners

Re: Docket No. 99-339 -- In opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description

I was pleased last July to read that the FCC had ruled that television networks must begin providing video descriptions in order to help visually impaired people understand television programs. In the past, many of my friends who have macular degeneration expressed their hope that video descriptions would be provided someday.

Now that I have macular degeneration myself, I am looking forward to having video descriptions help me keep in touch with the world. Please don't rescind your order.

Deaf people already have closed captioning. By April 2002, I will need video descriptions in order to understand television. Help me cope!

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Barbara D. Briller

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**Mrs. Cherie Van Campen: Statement of Support for Video Description for her daughter.**

**From:** cmvc1@juno.com  
**Subject:** Re: Descriptive Video

> > > cherie van campen <cmvc1@juno.com> 10/24/00 08:17PM > > >

As the mother of a blind young lady, I can attest to the benefits she has received from DVS movies which we have purchased and rented. She was extremely excited to learn that soon TV stations would be supplying shows with DVS. I do hope there are no changes in your plans to do so.

I can't see why anyone should object to this. Unless the viewer turns on SAP, no one will even know the description is present. It seems only fair when we do closed captioning for the deaf.

In addition, it seems to help sighted people understand complicated plots and the describers are much more professional than it is possible for the average parent or friend to be.

Please pursue this. The blind community will be so grateful.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cherie Van Campen

99-339

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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**From:** mvc2@juno.com  
> > > michelle y van campen <mvc2@juno.com> 10/23/00 01:09AM > > >  
**Subject:** Re:

Hi, my name is Michelle Van Campen and I am writing in regards to the petition number 99-339 which is regarding whether or not you should keep the rule for television shows to be put in Dvs for the visually impaired.

**RECEIVED**

**NOV - 7 2000**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

I am visually impaired and currently use descriptive Video service for much of the Tv movies and nature shows I watch! When Dvs came out over 10 years ago, I was so glad they had. What a truly wonderful service they have done for the blind community.

I truly believe as a blind person, that we as Blind people should be able to get this service when watching primetime Tv. They have closed captioning for the deaf which I'm sure benefits them greatly, this would do the very same thing for us.

I get so much more out of a movie then I used to, it really makes movie watching so much more enjoyable for me as for many other visually impaired people. I have several friends who are also visually impaired and who love it, and I have loaned videos to sighted people as well and they also think it wonderful that such a service exists for the blind.

I strongly encourage you to keep the rule that you have made so that we may enjoy Television to it's absolute fullest.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter!

Sincerely,

michelle Van Campen

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Mrs. Chaurie G. Van Driel: Opposes Reconsideration

From: Chaurie G Van Driel &lt;cgvandriel@juno.com&gt;

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

To: &lt;access@fcc.gov&gt;

Date: Tue, Oct 31, 2000 7:06 PM

Subject: Opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported Order of Video Description

This letter is in regards to Docket Number 99-339

Dear Sir?Madam,

I am sending this e-mail to urge the FCC to stick with the ruling made in July about video description for Television programs. I am grateful to the FCC for ruling in favor of Video Description and am looking forward to it's inception.

Both my husband and myself are blind. We have enjoyed video description from the WGBH programs we have ordered. it makes it easier for both of us to know what is happening on the screen. We also enjoy a lot of television programs but have a hard time following what is occurring on the screen. I applaud the FCC for making such a bold move to allow the visually impaired to also enjoy this media. We urge you strongly to follow through with your ruling. The petitioners have not shown any new information since the FCC reached the decision and issued it.

Sincerely, I urge you to push the matter of video description forward. It will benefit not only the blind community, but all affected parties.  
Thank you for your time

Chaurie G Van Driel

CC: &lt;info@acb.org&gt;

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**Ms. Miriam Vieni (New York): Opposition to Reconsideration**

**Subject:** Re: Copy of Comment Letter on Video Description

NOV 7 2000

NOV - 7 2000

> > > Miriam Vieni <miriam@panix.com> 10/24/00 12:20PM > > >  
Dear Sirs:

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

I am submitting Comments in Opposition To Petitioners For Reconsideration  
Of The Reported Order On Video Description Docket #99-339.

As a partially blind person, I want the commissioners to know how much I appreciate their requiring the networks to begin providing video description services to those of us who are blind and visually impaired. The descriptions which have been available on Public Television, have enabled me to watch, understand, and enjoy many programs which would otherwise be inaccessible to me. For many of us (especially those who've had sight in the past or who have a little sight now), the descriptions help us to visualize what we cannot see. For people who cannot see at all, they are of vital informational importance. You, who can see, must surely understand how integral to the understanding of a TV program is its visual content. Description does not replace sight, but it provides the information that makes what is happening on the screen, understandable. Because the video descriptions have made clear to me, the richness and complexity of visual content on the screen, and because my very limited vision causes me to miss so much of most television programs, I no longer watch television unless the programs are described.

I have been looking forward to a time when I will be able to watch a wider variety of programs on different channels, and will not feel "out of the mainstream" when sighted friends and family discuss what they have been watching.

I am opposed to a reconsideration of this matter which has already been decided with the needs and the right to equal access of the blind and visually impaired sector of the population, having been taken into account. Those blind people who feel that they do not need video description, are certainly free to choose not to use it. But the right to access to information about what is on the TV screen should not be denied to an entire class of people because of the preferences of a few. I would point out that closed captioning has been accepted as a necessity for deaf people. Certainly, the needs of blind people deserve the same consideration. Visual description should be an accepted necessity for us.

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The petitioners have not presented any new information which was unavailable at the time that the FCC reached its decision. Therefore, there seems to be no viable reason for reconsidering the decision now.



Miriam Vieni, C.S.W.  
515 Oxford St.  
Westbury, NY 11590  
516-333-5104  
Fax 516/876-8246

**Frank Wedge: Supports Video Description**

**From:** Frank Wedge <mgnochq@kans.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 1, 2000 9:18 AM  
**Subject:** Video Description

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

It's important to support video description and that it be made more available to the blind. The U.S. government throws so much money away (out the window), I hope we can keep some of it for our own people. The blind need to have Descriptive Video available to them in a greater form.

Frank Wedge

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**Mr. Paul Wohlfeil (Illinois): Opposition to Petitioners**

**From:** "Nancy & Paul Wohlfeil" <nanpaul@corecomm.net>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov> , <info@acb.org>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 30, 2000 8:46 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Docett #99-339 --Opposition to Petitioners

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

I have been following with great interest your FCC rules regarding video description, to be effective in April 2002. I have been legally blind since age 13, and having grown up with television, there have been many occasions when I depended upon others to relate action I had missed, letters on screen I could not read, and details I could not see.

Talking books greatly expanded my knowledge of literature and the hunger to read. Descriptive videos from the talking book libraries allowed me to see movies that I "missed" seeing when at the theater. The entire story is so much different when you know all that is going on in a film.

I am most disappointed after the FCC had thoughtfully put together a plan, and now I am equally disappointed that pressure from the media may cause you to recind the decision that raised our hopes so high and now threaten our active participation in enjoying the media available to others. What was wrong with your decision...what has changed to cause you to reconsider the issue. Why would anyone choose to limit the audience that supports the media economy?

I am opposed to the petitioners request for you to reconsider your FCC ruling--Docket #99-339. Please press forward with rules that make TV, motion pictures, and video tapes more accessible to all Americans. Do not open a door a little bit, and then let others pressure you to close the door again!

Paul Wohlfeil  
232 South Fifth St, Apt G  
Springfield, IL 62701

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**Mr. Ted Yester: Opposition to Petitions**

**From:** <ted\_yester@juno.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 11:08 AM  
**Subject:** re: Docket No. 99-339 / OPPOSITION

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

And also  
Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, DC, 20554

I am writing you in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported on VIDEO PRESCRIPTION.

Please count my opposition when you make your consideration of action.

Ted Yester (c) 2000  
ted\_yester@juno.com

**CC:** <info@acb.org> , <tedyester@juno.com>

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Joseph Lucasiewicz (Florida): Request Rejection of Petitions for Reconsideration  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

From: <PIWOW@aol.com>  
To: <access@fcc.gov>  
Date: Tue, Oct 31, 2000 6:49 PM  
Subject: Letter to FCC

99-339

This is a copy of the letter I sent to the FCC .

Joseph M. Lucasiewicz  
3336 Dolin Avenue  
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

I would like to thank the commission for their July 21st ruling on providing video description for television programming for the blind and visually impaired.

I sincerely urge the commission to reject any "Petitions to Reconsider" the July ruling. I feel very strongly that the petitioners have not provided any new information for reconsideration.

I am submitting this official filing of protest and opposition to the Petition For Reconsideration of the reported order on video description.  
(Docket # 99-339)

Joseph M. Lucasiewicz

CC: <info@acb.org>

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**Billie LeTendre (North Carolina): Opposition to Petitions for  
Reconsideration**

**From:** LeTendre <letendre@pinehurst.net >  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov >  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 9:50 AM  
**Subject:** descriptive Videos

To the FCC Disability Rights Office:

734 Sunny Slope Road  
Bear Creek, NC 27207  
October 30, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 99-339  
In Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported Order  
on Video Description

To the FCC:

I would like to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote to require networks to begin providing video description services. I feel that this is an essential service for those who are blind and visually impaired.

I am a teacher of blind and visually impaired children. This service helps my students by beginning to level the playing field. When others watch programs they are able to grasp much incidental information through vision. Often this information is paramount in understanding the verbal discussion. By presenting video description, the programming takes on a whole new meaning for those who cannot see the screen. Often it is this video description that allows these persons to extract the same information from the programming as the sighted viewer. As a teacher of blind and visually impaired, I am very well aware of the need to level the playing field of education and feel that requiring video

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

description is a step in the right direction, not only for students but for the blind and visually impaired population in general.

Again, let me reemphasize the value of video description for my students. Since petitioners have not presented any new information that was not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision, I feel that your ruling should stand and continue forward.

Sincerely,  
Billie LeTendre

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**Ms. Marilyn Lytle (Kansas): Opposition to Petitions For Reconsideration**

**From:** <Glnlytl@aol.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 30, 2000 9:01 PM  
**Subject:** Docket No. 99-339 - Video Description for the Blind

Following is a copy of my letter which is being mailed to Magalie Salas:

October 30, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Re: Docket No. 99-339

I want to express my appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for requiring the networks to begin providing video description for television programming by April of 2002!

I am not blind, but for the many blind and visually impaired persons in this country, this is an extremely important ruling in order for them to know what is happening on television.

I am aware that there is a petition to reverse the FCC's ruling--Docket No. 99-339--and this letter is to express my opposition to the petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

Video description is certainly very important to those who are blind. They have so many obstacles to overcome, and this is one way we can make their lives better.

Sincerely,

Marilyn G. Lytle  
4002 Jasmine Drive  
Wichita, KS 67226

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**MacGregor Family: Support for Video Description & Opposition to Petitions for Reconsideration**

[Beatrice J. MacGregor, Robert B. MacGregor and Alexander B. MacGregor]

**From:** "Bea" <bmacg@excelonline.com>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>, <info@acb.org>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 7:13 PM  
**Subject:** Video Program Description

The Federal Communications Commission  
Magalie Salas, Secretary  
445 125th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C.  
No. 99-339

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Sirs:

We applaud your ruling requiring the television networks to video describe their programs. It would be so wonderful for our visually impaired friends to be able to watch television with their friends and family and understand the action that is taking place.

We are appalled that petitioners have asked the Commission to reconsider its ruling, especially since they have not put forth any new information that was not known at the time the Federal Communications Commission made its decision. For all the above reasons, we are in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

Beatrice J. MacGregor, Robert B. MacGregor and Alexander B. MacGregor

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**Mr. Michael G. Macioch (Maryland): Opposition to Petitioners For Reconsideration & Request For Hearing**

**From:** "Mike & Pilot" <woody757@home.com>  
**To:** <info@acb.org>  
**Date:** Tue, Oct 31, 2000 7:50 AM  
**Subject:** Docket No. 99-339 " In Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of The Reported Order On Video Description"

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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**NOV - 7 2000**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Dear Ms Salas,

I have to object and request that the FCC put a freeze on the idea of not making television descriptive like the deaf and hard of hearing have the text of whats being said on the television.

Descriptive videos when I can locate them are more enjoyable than listening to a video even though it maybe the same video that a sighted person can watch, and yet the plain video is hard to follow just as plain television also is hard to follow without descriptive text. Maybe I have been spoiled especially when I go to Leader Dogs for The Blind to get a new replacement Leader Dog because they have both descriptive television and only descriptive videos for the students to use for enjoyment ( the videos are in English and Spanish).

Ms Salas, when the FCC announced that by April 2002 the visually impaired would be able to enjoy television and cable stations because the descriptive would be required on all channels. What really angers me the most is this late in the process the FCC has decided to reverse its previous order for the Descriptive to be added to both videos, and television while after researching the FCC website it strikes me odd that the petitioners have not provided any new information which was not already known to the FCC at the time of its ruling. That point is very crucial component for any petitioner to reconsider.

In closing I would request that the FCC hold another hearing on this issue if the Commissioners are going to reconsider this subject and that I be allowed to testify in favor of the original ruling by the FCC Commissioners to require descriptive components both on video and television --- television I understand to also include cable which is a large part of the television areas today in the 21st Century.

Sincerely yours,  
Michael G. Macioch  
and Leader Dog Pilot  
660 Kennington Road  
Reisterstown, MD 21136-6420

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**CC:** "Magalie Salas" <access@fcc.gov>

**Massachusetts Blinded Veterans Association, Gerard Boucher: Opposition to Petitions for Reconsideration**

**From:** <grboucher@att.net>  
**To:** <access@fcc.gov>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 30, 2000 11:47 PM

Gerard Boucher  
65 Hilldale Avenue  
Haverhill, MA 01832-3829  
Tel. 978-521-3982  
e-mail <grboucher@worldnet.att.net>

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**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary**

October 30/00

The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

To: Secretary, Magalie Salas.  
RE: Video Descriptive Television.(Official Filings {Docket No. 99-339}),

Dear Ms. Salas,

I want to thank you and I appreciate the Commissioners of the FCC, for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

However, this will serve the persons who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means (i.e., video description) for knowing what's happening on the television. Whereas, we have enjoyed video description in the past. Whereas, and some of us been looking forward to turning the TV set on, to enjoy television shows with our family and friends. Whereas, to use the video description to help us understand the visual aspects of the programming.

Therefore, this video descriptive TV would not just give us the awareness of activities going on in the program, but it would omit the comfort and relaxation for people with vision, at the same time giving us blind people the visual actions and not interrupting others from watching.

Consequently, there are some of us who live alone and do not have the pleasure of enjoying these visual programs. Also, the petitioners have not provided any new information which have not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. Please, this is a crucial component of any petition to reconsider. Thank you all very much for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Gerard R. Boucher, Vice Pres. of Mass. Blinded Vets Ass.  
Ps. and/or cc.

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**!In opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on Video Description!**